

Police

The Blacksburg Police Department has been providing Virginia's largest town with professional, effective law enforcement services since 1798. In 1993 the department earned and has since maintained the prestigious honor of being a Nationally Accredited Law Enforcement Agency, meeting or exceeding 445 national standards as determined by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. Through a continuing process of self-assessment, review of citizen satisfaction surveys and regular on-site inspections by members of the Commission, we have been able to demonstrate our commitment to excellence of service to the citizens of Blacksburg.

In the 2002-2003 Fiscal Year, our officers responded to 18, 844 calls for service and reported a crime clearance rate of 40%. As in previous years, we engaged in numerous criminal and traffic safety and enforcement programs including Operator's License Check Points, DUI patrols, Alcoholic Beverage Control law enforcement and speed reduction efforts. To accomplish our safety and enforcement goals, the Blacksburg Police Department utilizes two Mobile Speed Display Units, mobile and hand-held RADAR units, in-car video and computer systems and other equipment. The Police Department has partnered with the Fire and Rescue departments to establish, train and enhance planning and other efforts in regard to Homeland Security. We have worked closely with the County Administrator to obtain necessary funding through Homeland Security Grants and we are growing closer to the implementation of a wireless 911 Communications System. Additionally, we provide active assistance to the Neighborhood Enhancement Program in order to more effectively respond to neighborhood issues and concerns.

Having a safe community is an important priority for our citizens. Based on the results of the Town of Blacksburg's National Citizen's Survey published this spring, more than 89% of respondents felt "somewhat" or "very safe" from violent crimes in Blacksburg. In their neighborhood after dark, 91% of survey participants felt "somewhat" or very Safe." As assessed by the survey, 13% of households reported that at least one member had been the victim of one or more crimes in the past year. Of those who had been the victim of a crime, 73% had reported it to the police. We believe this high rate of reporting exhibits the confidence and trust our citizens place in this department. We are truly blessed to have citizens who take ownership in the safety of their community, and who are engaged and supportive of their police department.

Our Bicycle and Motorcycle patrol units continue to be an integral part of our enforcement and community policing efforts, and our fully implemented School Resource Officer program has made great strides in establishing and strengthening positive relationships with students while facilitating a safer school environment. The Crime Prevention Unit works diligently to provide on-demand and proactive prevention education programs to citizens of all ages in an effort to help our community maintain high levels of safety, reduce the opportunities for crime to occur and improve our quality of life. Our twice-yearly, 10-week Citizen Police Academy continues to excel in educating members of our community who seek to learn about and experience each facet of our services, programs and operations.

Throughout the year the employees of the Police Department work in unison with our citizens to support worthy causes. This fiscal year, we again provided assistance to the Muscular Dystrophy Association, Virginia Special Olympics and helped Blacksburg High School students deliver holiday food baskets to needy families. We also collected and distributed food and gifts to other disadvantaged families in our area during the holiday seasons. As a year-round service, we also provided and installed numerous child safety seats, free of charge, to indigent families from this and other communities